South Carolina Energy Office

The Energy Connection

South Carolina Budget and Control Board, Division of Regional Development

Spring 2000

South Carolina Energy Office Announces Lighting Initiative for Financially-Challenged School Districts

The State Budget and Control Board through the South Carolina Energy Office is pleased to provide to qualifying schools the new Schools Initiative Lighting Grant Program. With lighting retrofits being the easiest and least expensive first step to energy efficiency, the South Carolina Energy Office encourages schools to give priority consideration to lighting upgrades for their facilities.

The Schools Initiative will make available grants of up to $75,000 to the state's 28 most financially-challenged districts - those that rank lowest in "wealth per pupil" or in "required local support" as defined by the State Department of Education.

Eligible school districts (in alphabetical order) include: Allendale; Bamberg 1 and 2; Barnwell 19, 29, and 45; Clarendon 2 and 3; Dillon 1,2, and 3; Dorchester 2; Florence 2,3, and 4; Greenwood 51; Hampton 1 and 2; Lee; Lexington 4; Marion 1,2,3, and 4; Marlboro; Orangeburg 3; Sumter 2; and Williamsburg.

These grants will provide funding for projects that install energy efficient lighting and bring illumination levels into compliance with the *South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide*. Districts will be required to contribute a minimum cost share of 25 percent of the project cost. If the district is unable to acquire the cost share, financing is available from the South Carolina Energy Office's ConserFund Loan Program. The total funding of $3 million will be awarded in three annual cycles of $1 million.

To be considered for funding, an eligible school district must complete a School Funding Initiative Grant Application (available from the South Carolina Energy Office) along with a study detailing existing and proposed lighting, the annual cost savings that will result from the implementation, and the cost of the project. School districts may request assistance from the South Carolina Energy Office in obtaining a qualified lighting study.

School districts not classified among the most financially-challenged may apply to the S.C. Energy Office for free energy audits and low-interest loans that can be repaid directly from energy savings.

For more information on the Lighting Initiative, contact Howard Coogler of the S.C. Energy Office at (803) 737-8030 or statewide at 1-800-851-8899.

South Carolina Energy Office
1201 Main Street Suite 820
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 737-8030
1-800-851-8899
FAX (803) 737-9846
http://www.state.sc.us/energy/

Fuel Economy Guide for Vehicles Available

The South Carolina Energy Office now has available the *Model Year 2000 Fuel Economy Guide* for automobiles.

This free guide is a valuable resource for anyone who's thinking about buying a new vehicle. The guide lists estimates - provided by the EPA – of miles per gallon for each vehicle available for the new model year.

It's intended to help consumers compare the fuel economy of similarly-sized cars, light-duty trucks and special-purpose vehicles.

Choosing the most fuel-efficient vehicle in a class could save more than $1,500 in costs and prevent over 15 tons of greenhouse gas pollution over the lifetime of the vehicle.

The vehicles listed in the guide have been divided into four classes of cars: large, midsize, subcompact, and compact; two classes of light-duty trucks: small pickups and standard pickups; and three classes of special-purpose vehicles: minivans, small SUVs, and large SUVs.

Following are the vehicles with the highest fuel economy for the most popular classes, including both automatic and manual transmissions and gasoline and diesel vehicles. Be aware that many of these vehicles come in a range of engine sizes and trim lines, resulting in different fuel economy values. Check the *Fuel Economy Guide* or the fuel

Continued on Page 5

Notes From the Director

Mitch Perkins

The new millennium will offer us in the energy business many challenges and opportunities. The South Carolina Energy Office is committed to addressing these opportunities and effecting change in South Carolina by offering programs and services to reduce the use of energy by individual consumers, businesses and industries in all energy consuming sectors. We also encourage, wherever feasible, the use of clean burning energy sources. The following are some of the major efforts we will be employing to accomplish these goals.

It's gratifying to find our *Rebuild South Carolina* program expanding and providing energy savings and assisting facilities in becoming more energy efficient. The program was developed in order to reduce energy use in public buildings. Those who sign on as partners receive assistance with building audits, energy conservation plan development, financing, project coordination, and training.

The transportation sector consumes 73 percent of the petroleum used in the state, and gasoline consumption in South Carolina has increased by 58 percent over the past 20 years. To help address this issue, the S.C. Energy Office is involved in and promoting the "Clean Cities" program, a locally based, voluntary public/private partnership coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy, that expands the use of alternatives of gasoline and diesel fuel. Clean fuels are becoming increasingly important solutions to regional air quality problems and provide cleaner air for us to breathe.

Another environmental issue we are addressing is landfill gas (LFG). LFG is created when waste in a landfill decomposes. It is about 50 percent methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and 45 percent carbon dioxide. Instead of allowing landfill gas to escape into the air, the gas can be captured, converted, and used as an energy source. Using the gas helps to reduce odors and other hazards associated with LFG emissions, and it helps prevent methane from migrating into the atmosphere and contributing to local smog and global climate change. The environmental benefits of this program are improved local air quality, decreased risk of global climate change, and a local source of renewable energy.

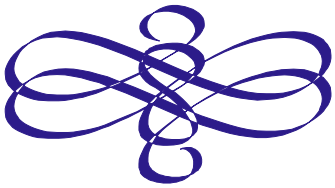
By taking advantage of rapidly growing technologies and working together as partners, we can be successful in our endeavors to reduce energy consumption and hazardous emissions in South Carolina.

Home Show Report

In early March, the S.C. Energy Office sponsored booths at three Home Shows in Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville. These Home Shows, targeted to those interested in building or renovating a home, provided an excellent forum in which to present information to the public on new energy technologies and construction practices. With a total attendance of over 60,000, the S.C. Energy Office was able to make direct contact with approximately 4,000 people by discussing available literature, displays, and answering many questions from "do-it-yourselfers." One participant even wrote: "Thanks – this was the best stop in the Show".

What's Happening Around the State

In January, the South Carolina Energy Office presented the findings of a Rebuild South Carolina energy audit conducted for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), which included retrofitting inefficient lighting with T-8s and electronic ballasts, and installing new LED exit lighting has a cost of $29,455, savings of $6,746, and a simple payback of less than 4.5 years.



As part of the Manufactured Housing Energy Efficiency Labels program, the S.C. Energy Office sent 11,722 labels to 58 manufacturers in 1999, a 10 percent increase over 1998. The South Carolina Manufactured Housing Energy Efficiency Label certifies that the manufactured home meets or exceeds the energy efficiency levels provided for in Section 12-36-2110 (B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended. To meet the energy efficiency standards, the home must have: storm or double pane glass windows; insulated or storm doors; and a minimum insulation thermal resistance rating of R-11 for walls, R-19 for floors and R-30 for ceilings, or equivalent allowances.

The South Carolina Energy Office estimates that 74 percent of the homes shipped to South Carolina for the first ten months of 1999 received the Energy Efficient Labels. By selling these labeled manufactured homes, South Carolina will save $2.6 million in energy costs.

South Carolina Colleges & Universities Reap Benefits of Energy Conservation Practices

Five South Carolina colleges and universities saved $650,000 during fiscal year 1998-99 by implementing energy efficiency improvements and projects on their campuses. After certification by the South Carolina Energy Office, the Commission on Higher Education uses the annual savings to adjust the funding formulas for the 17 state-funded colleges and universities, allowing them to retain part of the savings in their budgets. Since 1995, certified energy savings total almost $2.5 million.

A variety of projects accounted for the savings. Lander University is now able to make full use of an Energy Management System in their Math and Science Building, which will pay for itself in less than ten years. Lighting retrofits and new chillers at USC-Spartanburg save the campus about $6,500 annually, adding to savings from previous projects that amount to total savings of $10,345 annually.

An old physical plant facility at the College of Charleston benefited from extending the campus Energy Management System, cycling use of five heat pumps and a water heater through "on" and "off" zones. The project will pay back in less than five years, contributing annual savings of $1,869. An innovative measure at USC-Columbia saves $51,062 annually from one building. Installing Zone Presence Sensors on lab fume hoods in the Graduate Science Research Facility reduces air changes from ten per hour when the room is occupied, to four per hour when empty.

Load management efforts at Clemson University saved them almost $400,000 in 1998-99. For a more in-depth explanation of Clemson's successes, see the article entitled "Clemson Scores Big on Energy Savings" on page 7 in this edition of *The Energy Connection*.

For more information on the energy savings certification program for public higher education institutions, contact Janet Lockhart of the S.C. Energy Office.

Energetic Presidential Candidates

Presidential candidates' faces and voices have filled the airwaves since January as they compete in state primaries and caucuses. Little attention has been given to their positions on energy issues. The candidates differ among their various points of view on such subjects as renewable energy, how to deal with climate changes, nuclear power regulation, automobile efficiency, and whether or not to provide economic incentives to businesses for energy efficiency efforts.

Support increased funding and research for renewable energy sources is high. Vice President Al Gore stresses that he "has been a long-time supporter of increasing funding for the energy efficiency and renewable energy programs of the Department of Energy ... and has helped win significant increases for research in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies." Gore specifically encourages funding increases for research of solar and other renewables while Texas Governor George W. Bush supports increased funding to find additional uses for agricultural products including biomass.

Candidates' positions on ratifying the Kyoto Protocol are generally thought to represent their views on climate problems. The Kyoto Protocol aims at reducing emissions in developed countries. Gore supports ratification and voluntary reduction of greenhouse gases. Bush sees the Kyoto Protocol as "ineffective, inadequate, and a bad deal for Americans."

Gore says he is against constructing new plants but supports relicensing of existing plants that meet strict health and safety standards. Bush has offered no positions on nuclear power regulation.

Gore advocates federal tax incentives encouraging voluntary use of alternative fuels and new technologies as well as to encourage research. Bush has taken no position on the issue.

While Gore does not specifically support increasing Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards, he has joined with the automobile industry to support tripling the fuel efficiency of vehicles without increasing costs or reducing safety. Bush has taken no position on automobile efficiency standards.

More information on each candidate's views can be found at http://www.ase.org/takeaction/candidates/index.htm.

Rebuild South Carolina Update

Rebuild South Carolina partner Charleston County School District received energy audits funded by the South Carolina Energy Office and the U. S. Department of Energy on two of its schools, Wando High and Ashley River Elementary. These audits identified several energy and cost saving measures.

Since the audits were received, a full Direct Digital Control (DDC) system has been installed at Ashley River Elementary. According to Ervin Robeson, Utility Manager for the district, the new system has "improved the comfort level, reduced maintenance nuisance calls, and saved 10 – 15 percent on utilities." They are also currently undergoing a controlled lighting test, retrofitting six classrooms with several types of ballasts, tubes and some lighting controls. When the data is compiled, they plan to make the information available to the South Carolina Energy Office and others.

The presence of asbestos above the ceilings in Wando High School has prevented the district from carrying out recommended lighting retrofits and other above-ceiling measures at the facility. However, installation of a partial DDC system has allowed them to safely change to a demand rate. The change resulted in a $14,000 savings in the first six months after the change. Wando is also in the design stage for HVAC renovations that will replace the inefficient electric resistance heating with air-to-air heat pumps, further reducing consumption.

Robeson concludes, "Facility managers greatly benefit by having energy audits as an outside source for support during funding requests."

Continued in next column

In other Rebuild South Carolina news, Spartanburg School District Six was the host of a peer exchange between Rebuild South Carolina and Rebuild Alabama. District Six is the home of Anderson Mill Elementary School, the first school facility in South Carolina to employ state-of-the-art geothermal heat pump technology. The Association of South Carolina Energy Managers recognized this facility as Energy Project of the Year in 1998.

The Peer Exchange Initiative was specifically designed to provide information and technical assistance to Rebuild Alabama on EnergySmart School design and related issues. The goal was to assist officials of Alabama's Geneva County School District to determine the appropriate mix of energy efficiency technologies for new construction being planned on an existing campus.

This initiative enabled officials from Alabama to directly engage officials from the Spartanburg School District that have gone through the process of constructing a superior performing facility. This initiative provided Geneva County Schools with valuable insight they can consider in their planning/ design process.

As funding may become available to offset the cost differential between standard construction and any energy efficient technologies that might be included in the design, it is hoped Geneva County Schools project will incorporate many of the technologies discussed at the session.

NEED in South Carolina

The South Carolina Energy Office is proud to announce that Charleston, South Carolina was chosen as one of two sites for the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project's national conferences this summer, July 22 -26. The NEED 2000 Energy Conference will provide teachers with the most up-to-date information on all aspects of energy, including energy sources, consumption, electricity, efficiency, and environmental and economic considerations. Teachers will have the opportunity to speak with experts in the field and visit interesting energy-related sites near the conference. Field trips chosen for the Charleston conference include Dewees Island, a sustainable community off the coast of the Isle of Palms, and the incinerator at Foster Wheeler – an eye-opening look at what happens to the garbage in the city of Charleston.

Attendees will receive the instruction and materials to implement hands-on, interdisciplinary energy units in their classrooms. Teachers will also receive the training to conduct workshops and inservices in their areas to introduce NEED to others.

Registration is limited to 60 teachers per conference so that participants can receive the individual instruction they need to develop classroom programs that meet the needs of their students and curriculum.

The $750 registration fee covers meals, lodging at the Embassy Suites (double occupancy), and conference materials. The deadline for registration is May 1, 2000.

For more information on the NEED conference, contact Reneé Daggerhart of the S.C. Energy Office at 1-800-851-8899. For information on the NEED Project, please visit their website at http://www.need.org/need.

economy sticker on new vehicles to find the values for a particular version of a vehicle.

Subcompact Cars: Chevrolet Metro, Honda Civic HX, and Volkswagen New Beetle Diesel.
Compact Cars: Toyota Echo and Volkswagen Golf/Jetta Diesel.
Midsize Cars: Mazda 626 and Saturn LS.
Large Cars: Chevrolet Impala and Toyota Avalon.
Small Pickup Trucks: Chevrolet S10, GMC Sonoma, and Isuzu Hombre.
Standard Pickup Trucks: Ford Ranger, Mazda 2500, and Toyota Tacoma.
Minivans: Chevrolet Venture, Dodge Caravan, Oldsmobile Silhouette, Plymouth Voyager, and Pontiac Montana.
Small SUVs: Chevrolet Tracker, Suzuki Vitara, and Toyota RAV4.
Large SUVs: Jeep Cherokee and Jeep Grand Cherokee.
Best Overall Vehicle: Honda Insight, a 2-seater, gasoline vehicle.

By using the *Fuel Economy Guide*, consumers can estimate the average yearly fuel cost for any vehicle.

For a free copy of the *Model Year 2000 Fuel Economy Guide*, contact Reneé Daggerhart of the S.C. Energy Office at (803) 737-8030, statewide at 1-800-851-8899 or by e-mail at rdaggerhart@drd.state.sc.us.

Mark Your Calendar for E²L 2000

On July 13, the S.C. Energy Office, DHEC's Recycling Office, the University of South Carolina's Center of Science Education, and the U.S. Postal Service will join to bring the third-annual Energy ² Learn Forum to South Carolina teachers. At this free, one-day event teachers will learn about PEAP (the Palmetto Energy Awards Program), NEED (the National Energy Education Development Project), the *Action For a Cleaner Tomorrow* curriculum, the South Carolina science standards, air, energy, water, and many other exciting topics. Attendees will receive a one-year membership to NEED, the *Action* curriculum, the *Energy Factbook*, the new *Science Fair Project Guidebook*, classroom supplies made from recycled content materials, T-shirts, totebags, pencils, recycle bins, and many other great items. Attendees will also be registered to win a recycled computer, courtesy of the U.S Postal Service.

The deadline to register is May 15. To register for the 2000 Energy ² Forum, contact Reneé Daggerhart of the S.C. Energy Office at 1-800-851-8899.

E2's Media Debut

The S.C. Energy Office has been trying for years to create an image that everyone can associate with the Office. Gregg Glymph, a graphic artist with DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, has created just the character. Named in honor of the Energy Office's K-12 energy education program, Energy ² Learn, E2 will make his public debut in April, just in time for Earth Day. E2 will hit the airwaves again in July with a press conference at the NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project conference. He will also take to the airwaves in radio, have his own TV commercials, speak at conferences and workshops, and visit schools and fairs statewide.

E2 has three main messages: 1) saving energy always saves money; 2) saving energy keeps our air and water clean; and 3) saving energy is important for national security – it makes the U.S. less vulnerable to foreign events, such as wars and trade embargoes.

Created to enhance and interact with DHEC's "Recycle Guys," E2 will join the cast of characters in a series of TV and radio commercials, public events, and print items. Each of these characters reinforces the others and ultimately all work together to establish a unified identity that reaches and teaches the public.

Fisher Communications of Columbia, SC is producing E2's media campaign. Fisher Communications is known world-wide as the creative force behind the "Highways or Dieways" campaign, a series of 20 brutally graphic TV spots which show the consequences of carelessness on our nation's roads.

This new campaign is a perfect example of integrated marketing and interagency cooperation. The S.C. Energy Office has long enjoyed a productive and very successful partnership with DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. By combining our energy education efforts with their environmental education efforts, we all win.

113 Calhoun Street Foundation Project

113 Calhoun Street, in historic Charleston, is a three-story 125-year old wood frame house that was damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The house was donated to the non-profit *113 Calhoun Street Foundation* composed of a partnership between Clemson University Extension Service, the Sea Grant Consortium, the City of Charleston, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The purpose of the project is to provide an educational facility that incorporates natural hazard mitigation, demonstrates practical sustainable design and building practices that involve recycled building materials, energy and water conservation, sustainable living practices to include recycling, hazardous household waste management, and indoor air and water quality. 113 Calhoun Street will be open to the public during certain hours and by appointment for groups.

According to Bob Bacon, project manager, the building renovation construction phase is estimated to be finished by the end of March, 2000. Procurement for the design of the educational displays is in progress and proposals are to be received by mid February. From those proposals a budget will be established for the design and construction of the displays.

The energy component will include a super-efficient geothermal exchange heating and cooling system sponsored by the South Carolina Energy Office and Berkeley Electric Cooperative. Educational displays, design and construction will be partially funded through a contract from the South Carolina Energy Office.

DSM Report Available

The seventh annual report on demand-side activities implemented by the suppliers of electricity and natural gas throughout South Carolina is now available. This reports summarizes energy conservation information submitted by retail distributors of electricity and natural gas in South Carolina, with a purpose of describing ways to use conservation to meet the needs of South Carolina. This year's report includes information from all 46 electric utilities operating in the state, and 16 of the 19 natural gas suppliers operating in the state.

Demand-side activities are used to reduce the peak demand for electricity and to reduce the overall amount of energy used. Their use reduces harmful emissions, conserves fuel resources, reduces consumers' bills, and reduces the need for additional power plants. Over the past few years, utilities have been scaling back their demand-side management programs and this trend is expected to continue. The proposed deregulation of the utility industry contributes further to the uncertainty of the future of these programs.

In 1998, these demand-side activities reduced peak demand by 4.6 percent, or the equivalent to reducing the need for eight and one-half combustion turbines. Overall energy consumption was reduced by 0.23 percent through demand-side activities in 1998, saving consumers about $16 million.

Leaders in energy conservation are Carolina Power & Light, Duke Power, and the Cooperatives.

If you would like a copy of this report, or want more information on demand-side activities in South Carolina, please contact Kate Billing of the S.C. Energy Office. You can also download a copy from the S.C. Energy Office web site, at www.state.sc.us/energy/reports.htm.

They're Not Just For Bait Anymore

Every afternoon, more than 250 pounds of red wiggler worms get the leftovers from about 9,000 cafeteria meals served at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

The worms, about 2 to 3 inches long, don't do anything but eat, make baby worms, and produce waste to make compost so rich it's a natural fertilizer for flower beds and trees on campus. They also reduce waste transport and disposal at the Charleston County incinerator.

No one knows how many thousands of worms live in the 16-foot-long composting bin. The red wigglers arrived in mid-July and have consumed about 5,085 pounds of food and 385 pounds of newspaper since then.

In December, MUSC's recycling coordinator, Christine von Kolnitz harvested 660 pounds of castings, the nutrient-laden material the worms excrete. Three weeks later she removed 430 pounds from the bottom of the bin and she expects to keep harvesting every two to three weeks.

The project is funded by the South Carolina Energy Office, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Sustainable Universities Initiative, which includes MUSC, the University of South Carolina, and Clemson University.

Continued on Page 7

They're Not Just for Bait Anymore...

On a particular day, the worms' lunch consists of a feast of cut up cardboard and lettuce. A shredder turns the large pieces into a moist, dark-green pulp that the worms can consume more easily. Recycling assistant Alfred Miller guided a conveyer belt chute as it spit food on the dark, soil-like bedding of the worm bin. The worms shove unwanted items, such as a cellophane candy wrapper, to the surface.

Von Kolnitz keeps the bin at the ideal 65 to 70 degrees. An air conditioner helps keep things cool in summer, but the compost and a cover provide most of the heat in the winter.

While fishermen like red wigglers as bait, gardeners value the castings. They sell for $10 or more a pound at some gardening centers, said Michael Schmidt, professor of microbiology and immunology.

This article was re-printed from The State newspaper, January 22, 2000.

Clemson Scores Big in Energy Savings

We all know that turning off lights and appliances saves energy. Imagine how much energy could be saved by shutting down entire systems at a large facility, even one as large as Clemson University. Initiating a load management program allowed Clemson to save almost $400,000 in energy costs in 1998-99.

Load management begins with a wholesale electric rate, called a Schedule 10-A, from Duke Power Company. A higher rate applies to energy used during peak demand hours. Clemson's demand charge ($9.80/kW) was determined during the peak demand period for Duke's entire distribution system. By providing a price incentive for reducing demand, Duke can avoid installing a greater capacity energy supply, passing savings on to all customers.

In order to predict peak levels, temperatures from five years past are collected for Charlotte (NC), Greensboro (NC), and the Greenville-Spartanburg area. Using historical data in combination with local weather forecasts, Clemson Utility Director Jeff Hinson determines when peak energy demand will occur. Duke Power sends information about their demand load to Clemson over Internet connections, where graphs and charts illustrate constantly changing data.

Hinson explains how they make the decision about whether or not to initiate the load management sequence. After determining that Duke will peak during certain hours on certain days, Hinson can begin a manual shut-down process for systems in various buildings during those hours. Different systems are shut down in the winter and summer. On average, Clemson experiences three load management events a month.

Hinson says, "Most people don't realize that the systems are off. The average temperature increase is only three degrees.Our overall service has also improved," Hinson said.

Fortunately, Clemson Facilities are able to retain the money saved from efficiency efforts such as load management. Money saved can be used for other energy and infrastructure improvements.

For more information, contact Jeff Hinson at (864) 656-7300, or e-mail him at jhinson@clemson.edu.

Opportunities to Learn and Get Involved

Building Energy Code Training Workshops

Florence – March 28 – 29, 2000
Charleston – April 19 – 20, 2000
Columbia – April 26 – 27, 2000
Myrtle Beach – May 17 – 18, 2000

The S.C. Energy Office has received federal funding to continue the training on the Model Energy Code and ASHRAE 90.1 building energy code requirements. These workshops are offered to architects, engineers, and building officials. This year, to better accommodate the schedule of workshop attendees, the workshop is broken into two parts. The first half-day will cover the residential aspect of the energy code. The commercial code, ASHRAE 90.1-1989, will be discussed in the afternoon with the building envelope being the major focus. Registration ranges from $45 to $100, depending on classes attended. To register, contact Jeff Tiller of Southface Energy Institute at (828) 265-4888.

ASCEM Spring Conference
USC Spartanburg
April 26-27 2000

The Spring 2000 Association of South Carolina Energy Managers (ASCEM) conference is scheduled for April 26 – 27 at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg. The theme for the conference is "What's Happening in Energy." The conference will kick off on Wednesday with a tour of Anderson Mill Elementary School, the 1998 Energy Project of the Year. Anderson Mill is the first school facility in South Carolina to employ state-of-the-art geothermal heat pump technology.

Registration for the conference will begin Thursday morning. Three education forums are planned for the morning, followed by lunch with an update on South Carolina Energy Office activities. A business meeting of ASCEM officers and other interested members will follow that afternoon. Watch your mail for further information.

South Carolina S.A.V.E.$ Participants

South Carolina S.A.V.E.$ (Schools and Agencies Verify Energy Dollars) was initiated in 1994 to assist schools and agencies in monitoring their energy costs. S.A.V.E.$ participants receive FASER energy accounting software and training to track, analyze and print reports on energy and utilities.

FASER 2000 Q & A

Q: Can the user set the sensitivity of the bill checker identifying warnings due to abnormal usage or cost?

A: Not at this time. User-defined sensitivity settings are scheduled to be added to the program in a later release. The current bill checker is set to a 20% variance when comparing average daily cost of this bill vs. the same accounting period last year; average daily usage of this bill vs. the same accounting period last year; and total demand of this bill vs. the same accounting period last year.

Note that each usage and demand detail is checked individually. If a template or rate has several usage details (on-peak/off-peak) and several demand details (actual/billed), a separate check is shown for each detail.

Also note that the bill checker checks only the first meter on an account since most accounts have only a single meter. All meters will be checked in a later release.

Q: How do I delete an account or a meter? I deleted one, but some of the consumption or cost values stayed on the report.

A: When you delete an account, all meters and bills are also deleted. For this to work properly, you need a release LATER than 2.10.

You cannot delete an individual meter. You must delete an account.

If you (1) have multiple meters on an account, (2) you've already entered bills, and (3) you want to delete one meter, you must use the bill entry screen to update each bill. Zero out the use/cost for the target meter. Then, create a "dummy" account, assign the meter to the dummy account, and delete the account.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, contact Julia Parris of the South Carolina Energy Office at 1-800-851-8899.

Director Mitch Perkins

Editors Reneé Daggerhart
Meg Smith

South Carolina Energy Office
Division of Regional Development
1201 Main Street, Suite 820
Columbia, South Carolina 29201